

### In the Claims

Amend claims 7, 8, 12, and 19, as follows:<sup>1</sup>

7. (amended) The oligonucleotide of claim 6, wherein said nucleotide base sequence of said organism is shown in Fig. 3.

8. (amended) The oligonucleotide of claim 1, wherein said organism is *Perkinsus mackini*.

12. (amended) The oligonucleotide of claim 9 wherein said PCR primers or complement thereof are selected from the group consisting of:

CAC TTG TAT TGT GAA GCA CCC

TTG GTG ACA TCT CCA AAT GAC

ATG CTA TGG TTG GTT GCG GAC C

GTA GCA AGC CGT AGA ACA GC

AAG TCG AAT TGG AGG CGT GGT GAC

ATT GTG TAA CCA CCC CAG GC

TAG TAC CCG CTC ATT GTG G

TGC AAT GCT TGC GAG CT

AGT TGG ATT TCT GCC TTG GGC G

ACC AGG TCC AGA CAT AGG AAG G

19. (amended) The kit of claim 3, wherein said microorganism is the genus *Perkinsus*.

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<sup>1</sup> Consistent with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.121, a marked up version of the amended claims is contained in **Appendix C** hereof; a clean copy of all pending claims is contained in **Appendix D** hereof.

Add new claims 13-17, as follows:

13. (new) The oligonucleotide of claim 1, wherein said oligonucleotide is detectably labeled.
14. (new) The oligonucleotide of claim 1, wherein said nucleotide base sequence has type I and type II NTS sequences as in Fig. 10.
15. (new) The oligonucleotide of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid sequence is exactly complementary to said nontranscribed spacer sequence.
16. (new) The method of claim 2, wherein said nontranscribed spacer sequence is isolated by amplifying said nontranscribed spacer sequence using primers, or complement thereof that preferentially hybridize to said flanking rRNA genes.
17. (new) The method of claim 2, wherein said nontranscribed spacer is isolated by the steps of digesting said DNA with restriction enzyme, creating a library, and identifying said nontranscribed spacer sequences within said library using a probe specific for one of said rRNA genes.

### **REMARKS**

#### **Substitute Specification**

The applicants hereby submit a substitute specification to replace the originally filed specification, so as to correct some typographic errors in the original specification. Moreover, the applicants have replaced the original reference list with a more complete substitute list. No new matter is introduced hereby.

#### **Amendment of Claims 7, 8, 12, and 19**

Claims 7, 8, 12, and 19 have been hereby amended to correct typographic errors.